

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL AND CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS

October 25, 2016

Guidelines for the Effective Response to Domestic Abuse (GERDA): Distribution, Training and Implementation

In passing Senate Bill 1745 in 2002, the state legislature recognized the need to intervene more effectively and consistently in the lives of children who experience domestic violence. This legislation requires law enforcement, child welfare, prosecutors, child abuse/domestic violence experts, and community-based organizations serving abused children and victims of domestic violence in each California County to develop protocols for their response to incidents of domestic violence in homes where a child resides.

Under the leadership of the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) and the Domestic Violence Council (DVC) a working committee comprised of representatives from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office (DA), the Office of County Counsel (CoCo), the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), the Los Angeles County Juvenile Dependency Court (Dependency Court),

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the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and a number of community-based organizations, began to meet to develop the required protocols for Los Angeles County. The protocol was named Guidelines for the Effective Response to Domestic Abuse (GERDA).

On April 27, 2015, the ICAN Policy Committee recommended that the DVC, in collaboration with the DA and ICAN, develop a plan for the adoption, distribution, and training of the Countywide GERDA Protocol, a recommendation which was unanimously approved.

On February 9, 2016, the Board of Supervisors issued Board Motion 8A in response to the Homelessness Initiative Board Letter recommending that the Chief Executive Office (CEO) work with the Departments of Public Social Services, Children and Family Services, Mental Health, Health Services, Public Health and the LA City Homelessness Services Authority to collect and review county procedures used for the identification of individuals and families affected by DV and the linkage to appropriate services. The Domestic Violence subcommittee of this CEO-led workgroup has reviewed the GERDA protocol and has adopted the GERDA Core Values to guide their recommendations.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors approve the Guidelines for Effective Response to Domestic Abuse (GERDA) Protocols for incidents of domestic violence in homes where children reside and order it implemented in the following county departments: Department of Children and Family Services (DCSF), the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), the Los Angeles District

Attorney's Office (DA), the Office of County Counsel (CoCo), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and Los Angeles Superior Court. It is further recommended that the GERDA Executive Committee be directed to develop a plan to coordinate the distribution, training and implementation of these Protocols in Los Angeles County with a focus on cultural and linguistic sensitivity. The referenced departments shall designate a domestic violence liaison to work with the GERDA Executive Committee and to be responsible for coordinating the distribution, training and implementation of these Protocols within their departments.

S:GHH/GERDA